

REMARKS

The parent application was filed with a total of 17 Claims. In a Restriction Requirement mailed March 22, 2001, the Examiner restricted the Claims into six (6) Groups, as follows:

- I) Group I, containing Claims 1, 4-9, and 13-17, drawn to a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding cysteine protease-1 (CP-1) and methods for the production of a heterologous protein using a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding CP1;
- II) Group II, containing Claims 2, 4-9, and 13-17, drawn to a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding cysteine protease-2 (CP-2) and methods for the production of a heterologous protein using a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding CP2;
- III) Group III, containing Claims 3-9, and 13-17, drawn to a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding cysteine protease-3 (CP-3) and methods for the production of a heterologous protein using a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding CP3;
- IV) Group IV, containing Claim 10, drawn to a cleaning composition comprising a cysteine protease;
- V) Group V, containing Claims 11 and 12, drawn to expression vectors and host cells for expression of a heterologous protein.

In a Response mailed April 20, 2001, Applicants elected the Claims in Group I (Claims 1, 4-9, and 13-17), drawn to a microorganism having a mutation or deletion of the gene encoding cysteine protease-1 (CP1), and methods for the production of a heterologous protein.


Applicants hereby file a Divisional application to pursue the Claims in Group III (*i.e.*, Claims 3-9, and 13-17, as applied to CP3). Applicants have amended the Claims

to be directed to a single serine protease species (*i.e.*, CP3). No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the non-elected subject matter and do not waive any of their rights or abandon any non-elected subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above Preliminary Amendment. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 120, the Specification has been amended to recite the divisional status of this application, and its relationship to the previous application filed by Applicants. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present application he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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